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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Agricultural Adjustment Agency
Washington, D. C.

March 5, 1945

GOOD SOIL, WELL PREPARED, BOOSTS PEANUT YIELDS

This material is the second of a series of "Grow More Peanuts Per Acre" suggested releases for joint use by State and County Extension and AAA workers.

Need for maximum production of peanuts was never greater than it is this year, according to _____ (Chairman of the _____ County AAA Committee), yet the 1945 national goal represents an increase of only 1 percent over the 1944 harvested acreage. Because it is unlikely that the goal can be exceeded to any extent, he said, agricultural authorities are asking farmers to grow more peanuts per acre.

"Suppose we could increase the average yield of peanuts, which is now about 700 pounds per acre, by 100 pounds," said Mr. _____. "On the basis of the national goal of 3,212,000 acres, that would increase peanut production by about 300 million pounds or 150,000 tons. In our own county, where the goal is _____ acres, it would increase production by _____ pounds. Think of it! And think what it would mean to the Nation in terms of a larger food supply, and to peanut growers in terms of increased income, if we could increase the yield even 50 pounds per acre. It is perfectly possible to obtain even greater increases if peanut growers will follow a few simple, tested rules."

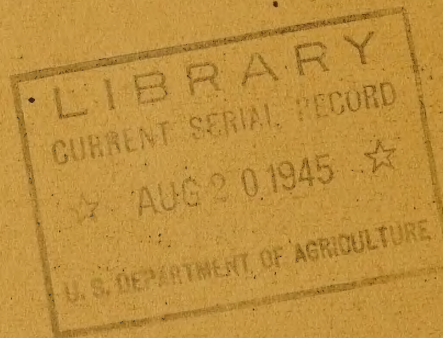
First of these rules, he said, is to use the best available peanut soil and to prepare it properly before planting. Light, well drained, sandy loam that will remain mellow through the entire season is best, he explained. Poorly drained, heavy, or sour soil is not generally desirable. It is best to avoid soil that is infested with nut grass, crab grass, Bermuda grass, or weeds. If infested soil must be used, it should be plowed early. This will give the grass and weeds a chance to rot before planting time. If possible, farmers should not grow peanuts on the same soil two years in a row.

If the land on which peanuts are to be grown has a winter cover crop, Mr. _____ said, it should be plowed early. Then the land can settle and the cover crop decay before planting time. Thorough preparation of the land is essential, he pointed out. It should be harrowed and dragged until it is thoroughly pulverized and packed to full plow depth. A well prepared seed bed is a great aid to uniform germination and a good stand -- the foundation of high yields. It also reduces the cost of growing peanuts by discouraging early growth of grass and weeds.

"In this connection," Mr. _____ said, "I am reminded that someone has said: 'The bulk of the cultivation of a peanut crop should be done while preparing the land before planting.' That man certainly knew how to grow peanuts."

Turning to the question of lime and fertilizer, he said, the use of calcium base limestone and lime or magnesium base limestone or lime, also known as dolomitic lime, is often beneficial. Fertilizer may also be helpful. If it is allowed to come in direct contact with the seed, it often cuts down germination, thus lowering yields. Before deciding on liming and fertilizing, he said, a farmer should have the county agent help him study the past history of the land, and determine how much, if any, lime and fertilizer should be used. In case fertilizer is needed, the county agent can help decide the formula that will give the best results.

Mr. _____ said that if the land on which peanuts are to be grown slopes, then contouring, terracing, or strip-cropping may be necessary to control erosion. In that case, the county AAA office will give information about the financial assistance available for carrying out these practices.



This material was prepared jointly by Agricultural Adjustment Agency; Extension Service; and Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils and Agricultural Engineering.

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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Agricultural Adjustment Agency
Washington, D. C.

March 15, 1945

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GOOD SEED IMPORTANT FOR HIGH PEANUT YIELDS

This is the third of a series of "Grow More Peanuts per Acre" suggested press releases for joint use by State and county Extension and AAA workers.

Patriotism and self-interest alike demand that every peanut grower should try to increase his yield per acre this year, according to _____ (Chairman of the _____ County AAA Committee). One _____ (County Agent) of the chief factors in obtaining higher yields, he said, is good seed of known high germination, shelled and treated.

With demands for peanuts from the 1945 crop expected to be the heaviest of the war thus far, Mr. _____ said, growers cannot afford to take a chance on poor, or even doubtful, seed. He advised _____ County growers who do not have their own seed of known high quality to get the best No. 1 seed they can find of an adapted variety, and to get it at once. Before planting, he added, the seed should be shelled carefully and treated with a fungicide.

Mr. _____ emphasized "adapted variety". The different types of peanuts, he explained, respond differently to the soil, climatic, and other conditions under which they are grown. Scientists are still a long way from understanding why peanuts are so touchy. It would be very unwise, he said, for a _____ County grower to plant a variety that he does not know is adapted to this soil and climate and to the needs of local markets. He listed the varieties that have proven best adapted to this county as _____, _____, and _____.

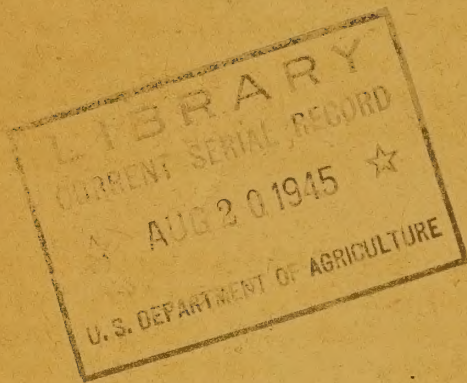
To be sure of getting good seed, Mr. _____ said, a germination test is necessary. "Good peanut seed always means plump, mature kernels", he said, "but plump, mature kernels don't always mean good seed. That's why you need to test them for germination. You can't have high yields without a good stand, and you can't count on a good stand unless you plant seed of known high germination."

It is as bad to use seed from low-yielding strains of peanuts, Mr. _____ said, as it is to plant mongrel rubbings of corn, or shrivelled wheat, or cull potatoes, and then expect a good crop. For that matter, it is just as bad to use shrivelled, moldy, damaged, or immature seed of a high-yielding strain.

Fortunately, he said, growers do not have to use poor seed. Although there is as yet no commercial "certified" peanut seed industry on a large scale, there are some good growers who have paid particular

attention to producing high-grade, heavy-yielding crops of seed peanuts. As a result of cooperation between these growers and peanut shellers and handlers, much has been done to make superior seed stocks available for general use.

"Much of the success of the 1945 peanut production program," he said, "depends on use of these better seed stocks for planting the crop, and on shelling and treating all planting seed."



This material was prepared jointly by Agricultural Adjustment Agency; Extension Service; and Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering.

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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Agricultural Adjustment Agency
Washington 25, D. C.
March 31, 1945

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CARE IN PLANTING HELPS TO INCREASE PEANUT YIELDS

(This is the fifth in a series of suggested "Grow More Peanuts Per Acre" press releases for joint use by State and county Extension and AAA workers.)

Care in planting is essential if _____ County farmers are to grow more peanuts per acre and thus help meet greatly increased wartime needs, _____, (Chairman of the AAA County Committee, said.
(County Agent)

Pointing out that prospective demands are the greatest of the war while the acreage goal is only 1 percent above last year's harvested acreage, he added that stepping up yields is essential if military and civilian needs are to be met.

"Growing more peanuts per acre is good business as well as a patriotic duty," he said. "Agricultural authorities say that farmers can easily increase the average yield this year by 100 to 200 pounds per acre by using a few simple, proven practices. Greater increases are possible on individual farms. And 100 pounds of shelled peanuts means about \$10 in the farmer's pocket at the current farmers' stock support prices of \$160 a ton for Spanish, Virginia, and Valencia types and \$145 a ton for Runners."

Mr. _____ said that close spacing, both between rows and between plants in the row, is an effective way of increasing peanut yields, especially of the Spanish type. Experiments have shown that higher and more profitable yields result from spacing rows of Spanish peanuts 24 inches apart and plants in the row about 3 inches apart. For Runners and Virginias, spacing the rows 24 inches and upward and the plants from 6 to 8 inches apart in the row gave the most profitable yields.

Besides producing more peanuts per acre, Mr. _____ explained, close spacing helps to keep down grass and weeds.

Peanut seed should be planted $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches deep in light, sandy soils and 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep in heavier soils, he said. The soil should be firmed slightly over the seed. Modern planting machines have concave wheels that take care of this. He advised growers who do not have a peanut planter of their own to obtain the use of one if possible, as machine planting usually gives better results than hand planting.

The following table shows the approximate quantity of shelled peanut seed required per acre with various widths of rows and spacings within the rows:

		: Seed required for row distances shows			
Type of Peanut	: Spacing in rows	: 24-inch rows	: 30-inch rows	: 36-inch	
	: : : : : rows				
	: Inches	: Pounds	: Pounds	: Pounds	
Spanish	: 3	: 70	: 53	: 45	
Spanish	: 6	: 35	: 26	: 23	
Virginia	: 8	: 50	: 39	: 32	
Virginia	: 10	: 40	: 32	: 26	
Runner	: 8	: 35	: 28	: 23	
Runner	: 10	: 28	: 22	: 19	

The best time to plant peanuts, Mr. _____ said, is "reasonably early". In _____ County, he explained, that means between _____ and _____. "Experience shows," he said, "that such plantings outyield both very early and late plantings." The wise peanut grower, he added, will go over his land with a harrow or other suitable tool the last thing before planting. This will kill whatever grass and weeds have gotten a start.

He cautioned growers particularly against letting peanut seed come in direct contact with fertilizer. If it does, he said, yields will be impaired.

Farmers who have their soil in perfect condition, use No. 1 shelled seed that has been treated with a fungicide, fertilize and lime if necessary, plant reasonably early, space closely, and cover uniformly to a moderate depth, he said, will have laid the foundation for a heavy yield of peanuts.

"Let me point out once more," he said, "that the only way to make sure of meeting military and civilian needs is for farmers to grow more peanuts per acre."

This material was prepared jointly by the Agricultural Adjustment Agency; the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering; and the Extension Service, for local use after joint approval by State AAA and Extension workers.